Belgium

North = Flemish Region (Flanders) - Dutch
South = Walloon Region (Wallonia) - French

Education => regional level
Flemish Dept. Education and Training
Flemish Dept. for Education & Training

• Growing attention for international internships
  • = leverage into labour market; employability
  • = way to increase international mobility figures

• Action Plan (2013) ‘Brains on the Move’ promoting international mobility in HEI’s « 20% in 2020 » => Specific attention for internship mobility
Flemish Dept. for Education & Training

• Financial support for international internships in US (TWC)
• ‘Generic scholarships’ for study or internship:
  only creditmobility
  outside EU / complementary to E+ (no cumulation) transport stipend
  514 000 € for 21 HEI’s / 650 € month
• Asem-duo (only studies)
• Internship mobility for graduates
Financial support for ‘RECONFIRM’ Consortium
Higher Education Institutions

• Growing attention for internships: acquisition of specific professional competences and intercultural skills

• Traditionally integrated in vocational training (regulated > prof. recognition)

• Increasing integration in academic curricula; (compulsory (credits) vs voluntary internships (no credits))

• Internships for graduates (voluntary)
European level

European Commission:
- Promotion of international (internship) mobility (KA1)
- enhancing youth employment internships: leverage for Eur. youth guarantee (ESF)

- Financial support:
  Leonardo da Vinci programme LLP (ending 5/2015)
  Erasmus+ programme (LLP) 2014-2020
  Traineeship mobility during studies or after graduation
RECONFIRM
Regional Consortium for International Internship Mobility

Leonardo da Vinci
Transfer of Innovation project
Project facts & figures

• LLP – Leonardo da Vinci – TOI
• **Regional Consortia for Internship Mobility – Reconfirm**
  1/2/2012 – 30/9/2014 – extention 31/5/2015

• Budget: 400 000 euro
  25% financing by partners
  75% European funding

• Preparatory phase started 2 years before
• Initiated by U Antwerp and UGent
Projectpartners

• University of Antwerp (B) (coordinator)
• Ghent University (B)
• Flanders Knowledge Area (B)
• City of Antwerp (B)
• PSA (= international company) (B)
• Technical University Eindhoven (NL)
• Swiss Occidental Leonardo (CH)
• Nottingham Trent University (UK)
• SOP Hilmbauer&Mauberger (technical partner – software developer) (AU)
Project origin / driving forces

• Sustainable and social employability by internationalisation
• Added value of international internship mobility
• European support (LLP):
  Erasmus Placements
  Leonardo da Vinci programme (ends 31/5/2015)
• Limited access to European financial support for int. internship mob.; only few HEI’s involved in LDV programme
Project origin / needs

- Poor connection education – labour market; need for dialogue, need to bridge the gap
- Need for pooling expertise; improvement of quality of internships
- Need to make European funding accessible for ALL graduates
- Need for higher efficiency:
  - administrative procedures
  - communicative tools
- Recommendations to policy makers
Project aims

- Creation of a central Flemish platform for international internship mobility
- Development of online administrative and communication tools (students and companies)
- Setting up a Flemish Regional Office for Traineeship Mobility (consortium)
- Funding accessible for ALL graduates
- Creation of a network
- Dialogue with policy makers and labour market; based on expertise and central data collection
Results

• Flemish Consortium for Traineeship Mobility – ‘Reconfirm’: application Feb. 2014: approved!
• Coordinator = Flanders Knowledge Area

• Partners: 18 (out of 21) Flemish HEI’s

• Mobility budget: 850 Erasmus+ scholarship months for traineeship in EU after graduation
Results

• **Software tool**: online admin. flow application for scholarships via Reconfirm (single point of contact) follow up by 1 FTE administrator (gives feedback to student’s HEI)

• **Database** for traineeship search and posting offers by companies

• **Communication tools**: flyers for target groups (students & companies)

website: [www.reconfirm.eu](http://www.reconfirm.eu)

• **Dissemination tool**: handbook for other future consortia
Sustainability

• Preparatory to project phase: meetings with all HEI’s in Flanders about the project, asking for feedback and input (since 2 years before TOI project)
• Expert Steering Committee; umbrella organisations
• Flemish Dept. of Education
  o Action plan on Mobility; paying attention to traineeships
  o Is willing to finance post project phase
• Flemish Consortium for Stagemobiliteit – Reconfirm; long term vision; centrally embedded
Future

• Further development of Reconfirm consortium / Flanders Knowledge Area as central information and contact point for international traineeship mobility
• Secure improved employability of graduates
• Development of dialogue
  o Among HEI’s
  o With companies + expansion of database: profile search
  o With other relevant organisations
• Advice for policy makers based on central data
• Developing network
Conclusion

• Developments quite interesting; tailwind

• Welcoming idea of ASEM internships

• How to remove possible obstacles
• How to overcome the practicalities
• How to make ASEM internships a success
Ghent University

International Relations Office
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, Gent
09 264 7013

patricia.burssens@UGent.be
Meer info:
Afdeling Internationale Betrekkingen
International Student Support
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, Gent
op afspraak via tel. 09 264 7013
patricia.burssens@UGent.be

www.ugent.be/internationaal
Klik op buitenland na de studies > stage in de EU
Meer info:

Afdeling Internationale Betrekkingen

International Student Support
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 25, Gent
op afspraak via tel. 09 264 7013

patricia.burssens@UGent.be

www.ugent.be/internationaal

Klik op buitenland na de studies > stage in de EU